### Problems of the Day

Continued from Preceding Page.

amples Mr. Gould adduces to support his case, his conclusions are essentially unreliable, for he forgets that the ancient Greeks, the intellectual giants of history. were a blend of two prehistoric races: that the ancient Hebrews, likewise of foremost intellectual caliber, are believed to have been a compound of two peoples; that the Normans, one of the finest races of modern times, are known to have been of mixed blood, and that the French, the Anglo-Saxons, and practically all other groups of men, have an ancestry that includes many racial strains.

Turning to books that deal more directly with the industrial problem we may men tion Whiting Williams's "Horny Hands and Hampered Elbows," a discussion of the mind of the worker in western Europe, The conclusion reached by Mr. Williams is that the worker in Europe toils harder than does his brother in America, that in return he receives less in the way of com-forts and even of necessities, and that, largely because of the plight of labor, Europe has need both of the good will of America and of our intelligent cooperation. Somewhat more vital, because the problem it deals with is a vaster one, is A. A. Heller's volume on "Industrial Revival in Soviet Russia," a far sighted and discerning account of conditions in the land of the Communist. "The Russian revolution," declares the author, "will go down in history as the most profound and far reaching social upheaval since the fall of the Roman social upneaval since the fall of the Roman Empire, and it claimed a surprisingly small number of victims for so widespread and serious a struggle." The revolution is still in progress, but the destructive stage is over and the constructive stage has begun. Though it may require a generation before it runs its course this is really but a small period for so fundamental a social change; and, meanwhile, those who rail at the Communists for not having achieved perfection only demonstrate their failure to apprehend the vastness of the problem. Actually, except in the famine ridden areas, the Russian peasant is now better off than under the Czars; and there is no doubt, the author indicates, that his lot will gradually improve as the process of reconstruction continues.

Of the three remaining books two are of but casual interest for the general reader, and therefore may be passed over with but brief mention. Prof. Gillette's vol-ume on "Rural Sociology" is what the title implies—a carefully compiled and compre-hensive study of the social, economic, sanitary, agricultural, educational and religious problems of country districts. Likewise, Prof. Perlman's "History of Trade Union-ism in the United States" is what the title implies; the author discusses minutely the development of American trade unions from the earliest days until the present, and reaches the conclusion that the unions in this country have tended to be con-servative and that, therefore, "the hope of American Bolshevism will . . . con-tinue to rest with the will of the employers to rule as autocrats."

Last, but certainly not least, is Dallas Lore Sharp's slender but acute and thoughtful volume on "Education in a Democracy." This consists of four essays, which vigor-ously condemn current educational tendencies, which make a plea for more pub-lic education and indict that negation of democracy known as the private school. Prof. Sharp observes a dangerous trend toward educational snobbishness and aristocracy; combined with this he less dangerous tendency toward commer-cialism; he finds that the academic courses instill knowledge in a machine made, me-chanical fashion; that those which purport to give a commercial education are sheer absurdities; while those offering a vocaabstrattes; while those offering a voca-tional training are but the expression of a German desire for efficiency, a material efficiency which has no more to do with true education than buzzsaws have to do with Plato. As a remedy the author pro-poses that all high school students be compelled to take a uniform course looking neither toward college nor toward business nor toward a vocation, but instilling the rudiments of those broad and cultural sub-jects without an acquaintance with which no man can claim to be educated.

STANTON A. COBLENTZ.

TO "SEE HISTORY BEING MADE," READ

# Under Four Administrations By Oscar S. Straus

In a full page review, The New York Times says:

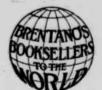
CONFIDANT of monarchs, Presidents, Premiers, poets and scholars, America's most illustrious living diplomat in turn takes the reader unreservedly into his confidence. Distinguished figures move in a continuous and vital stream through these memoirs-Lloyd George in a jocular mood at dinner, Kipling looking after his daughter in society, the Sultan sipping coffee from dia-mond-studded cups, Grover Cleveland at midnight suppers of delicatessen and beer. .

"To read this fascinating autobiography is to see history being . . Mr. Straus's remarkable life has been lived on five different continents and has for fifty years been tirelessly identified with the world's most dramatic events and with scores of the world's most eminent men. . . . He has probably been an eye witness of the inside transactions of more of the world's changes during the last fifty years than any other historian.

"If you are tired of novels, bored with history, or fed up with biography, you will find sure relief in the engrossing pages of 'Under Four Administrations.' " -New York Herald.

Illus., \$4.00 at

## HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY 16 E. 40th Street New York City



# Gifts for All

in great variety and style-to suit every age and taste and purse-for

your friends, your family, your children, or other children. Books make particularly acceptable and lasting gifts.

#### FOR MOTHER

Books, Leather Goods, Portfolios, Engagement Pads, Brass Desk Sets, Imported and Do-mestic Stationery, Silver and Gold Pencils, Miniature Bibles.

#### FOR CHILDREN

Books: Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales, History, Animal Stories, Nursery Rhymes, Picture Books, Games, Blocks, Toye.

#### RARE BOOKS

Our Old and Rare Book
Department offers really
noteworthy gift-possibilities—such as Rare Sets
and Single Volumes.
First Editions. Books
with Colored Plates.
Sporting Books. Extra
Illustrated Memoirs and
Biographies. Fine Bindings. Presentation Volumes. Old English Prints.
Autograph Letters and
Documents signed.

#### FOR FATHER

Books, Calendars, Diaries, Fountain Pens, Address Books, Brass Smoking Sets, Brass Paper Weights, Old and Rare Books, Reference Desk Sets.

#### FOR FRIENDS

Books, Christmas Cards, Book Ends, Sets and Single Volumes in fine Bindings, Subscriptions to Magazines.

We will gladly suggest and in every way endeavor to assist you in making selections



# BRENTANO'S

Fifth Ave., and 27th St., New York



**CHARLES G. NORRIS'S** Big Novel of Marriage

### BRASS

is still selling

E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

# WHY NOT BOOKS?

In this issue of THE HERALD you will find a wide selection of Books—enough to suit the taste of every member of the family. Books as Christmas gifts are always highly appreciated, giving joy to the kiddies and keen pleasure to the grown-ups.